

January 21, 2004

The Honorable H. Charles Royce, Chairman  
Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee  
Room 305, LOB  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: 1209, relative to substances added to public water supplies**

Dear Chairman Royce:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) wishes to thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 1209, which would prohibit adding certain substances to public drinking water unless they have been approved for safety and tested for contaminants. DES does not support this legislation as substances added to public water supplies are currently adequately regulated under state administrative rules and nationally-recognized standards.

Public water supplies in New Hampshire add a variety of chemicals required to treat water to meet state and federal drinking water quality standards, to modify aesthetic quality, or to provide dental protection in accordance with community consensus. Under N.H. Admin.Rules Env-Ws 375.03, no chemical may be introduced into a public water supply without the specific written approval of the DES Water Division. Standards of purity for these chemicals are referenced in Env-Ws 305.10, which states that "...all chemicals added to drinking water shall be approved by the (water) division...in accordance with standard 60 of NSF International." Further, testing and certification to demonstrate that chemicals meet this standard must be performed by agencies or firms which are certified by the American National Standards Institute. In addition, standards for certain water additives, such as chemicals for fluoridation, are also included in other national standards adopted by reference under Env-Ws 375. DES believes that the integrity and safety of public water supplies is adequately protected under these current regulations and standards.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at 271-3503, or Rene Pelletier at 271-2951 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Barbara J. Hagan  
Rep. Paul J. Harrington